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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of

2006 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

MB Docket No. 06-121

2002 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996

MB Docket No. 02-277

Cross-Ownership of Broadcast Stations and Newspapers

MM Docket No. 01-235

Rules and Policies Concerning Multiple Ownership of Radio Broadcast Stations in Local Markets

MM Docket No. 01-317

Definition of Radio Markets

MM Docket No. 00-244

COMMENTS OF RESIDENTS TESTIFYING AT THE ALBUQUERQUE TOWN HALL MEETING SUBMITTED BY FREE PRESS

On June 23, 2004 a "Town Meeting on the Future of Media" was held at the Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Community leaders and members of the public testified to Commissioner Adelstein and ex-Commissioner Gloria Tristani with their intention of submitting these comments into the official record (06-121). New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish also participated.

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SUMMARY

In Albuquerque, Commissioner Adelstein spent his afternoon in a roundtable discussion with local city councilmen and councilwomen, ex-mayors and senatorial candidates, state senators, and others. The comments he took away from this meeting were truly valuable and wide-ranging, highlighting the issues and challenges a concentrated press presents when it comes to political reporting, especially as far as local politics were concerned.

Come early evening, the Town Meeting itself was a raucous affair, broadcast in its entirety on community station KUNM. Commissioner Adelstein was joined by ex-FCC Commissioner Gloria Tristani there, and Ms. Tristani actively took part as one of the evening's panelists. A packed house of 400 very, very vocal citizens were also in attendance: their energy was contagious, prompting Councilman Eric Griego to ask, "Are all these FCC hearings like this?"

The two panels of speakers were truly upstaged by the audience open microphone period. The energy lasted all the way until the last attendee offered her testimony; in all, between 50 and 60 citizens had comments for Commissioner Adelstein. Concerns about media consolidation were on full display, with powerful and personal stories shared about shoddy reporting and misrepresentation of Native American and Spanish-speaking populations. One testifier even described a school visit to a 'local' broadcaster, only to find a small building on a hill transmitting three stations at once on autopilot. Attached is the audio recording of The Albuquerque Town Meeting on the Future of the Media to be submitted in the official record of MB Docket No. 06-121.

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